



Protests Over the Death of George Floyd Swell to an Overwhelming Tide

Hundreds of protesters surge down Capitol Avenue Saturday morning to demand reform and change following the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police on May 25. Similar protests have been held in Hartford on an almost daily basis for about two weeks. Saturday's march was one of the largest and began at Pope Park and proceeded to the

Capitol where it met up with other protesters, including a group of over 50 female black attorneys who staged a demonstration on the steps of the Connecticut Supreme Court, which stands across the street from the Capitol. Protests over Floyd's death and the racism and police brutality it has come to symbolize have been held across the

state, the nation and the world. The loud calls for change coming out of the protests has put pressure on lawmakers at every level to introduce and pass measures designed to reduce police brutality and overall discrimination. If, how and when those reforms are enacted remains to be seen, but will certainly be closely watched. (Hart photo)

Phase 2 of State's COVID-19 Recovery to Start June 17

Connecticut is scheduled to take another giant leap forward on its road to recovery from the COVID-19 shutdown next Wednesday. On June 17, restaurants will be allowed to resume indoor dining. Hotels, bowling alleys, movie theaters, libraries, gyms, fitness centers, pools, nail salons, tattoo parlors and several other businesses will be allowed to re-open. Governor Ned Lamont had originally scheduled Phase 2 to start on June 20, but decided to roll it back to June 17 last week,

primarily to allow enough time to get back up and running with indoor dining for Father's Day on Sunday, June 21, when many people take their dads out to eat. The COVID-19 shutdown began in mid-March when all but essential businesses were shut down to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Phase 1 started on May 20 when restaurants were allowed to have outdoor dining and non-essential stores and

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CLEAN SLATE

Hartford Teachers Together slate sweeps the union election

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Carol Gale says she's "gleefully thrilled". A product of the Hartford Public Schools and a classroom teacher in the city for 30 years, she and the ten other HPS employees on the Hartford Teachers Together slate learned earlier this week that they'd won the election for leadership of their union, the Hartford Federation of Teachers. It took nearly two months for the membership vote

incredible strength. We truly know each other and what we can do. Together, we spoke out at Board of Education meetings, reached out to all chapters and community partners, called for special union meetings to revise our elections and use mail-on ballots, and kept members informed through the use of social media."

So what are the priorities for this new

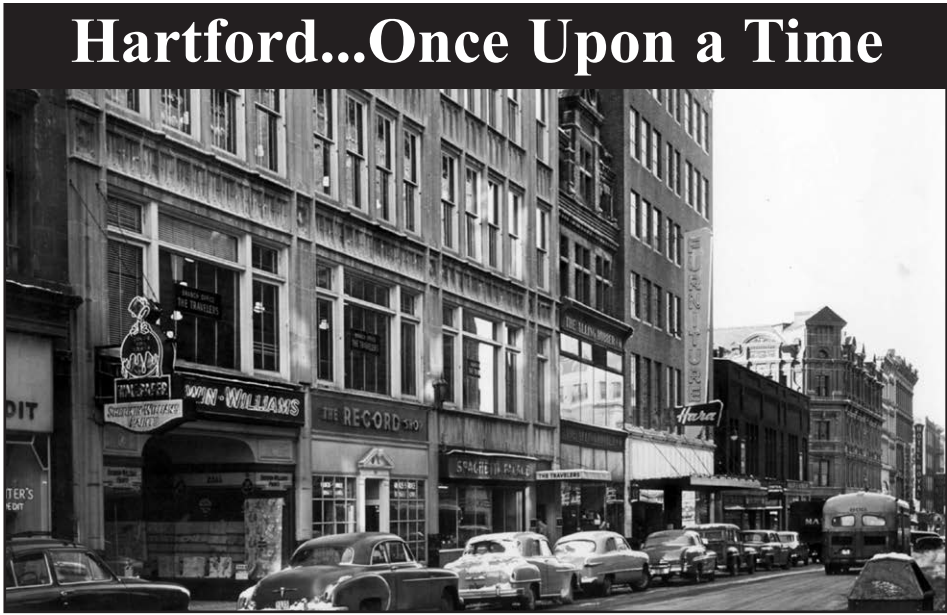


The Hartford Teachers Together slate

to be tallied. As the newly-elected President of HFT, replacing Andrea Johnson, Gale said the slate campaigned hard for the right to take the union in a more positive direction, and "The votes very clearly showed that the members were seeking a change." And she feels that one of the best parts is that they're ready to hit the ground running. "We've been working together as team for two years already in preparation for this election, and that puts us in a position of

regime? "The priorities are huge. There needs to be a real focus on raising teachers' voices." Many of the city's public school teachers feel that HPS hasn't really responded to the concerns and frustrations of those who are daily on the front lines of education, and dedicated to giving Hartford students the tools they need for a successful school career. "Ultimately, our goal is to elevate all our members and through that, ele-

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Downtown Hartford was once home to hundreds of little retail shops as can be seen in this photo of the south side of Asylum Street in 1958. All the building in the foreground were demolished to make way for City Place I and II. At right is the Goodwin Building (corner of Asylum and Haynes Streets). Originally built in 1881, it was completely remade in the building boom of the 1980's. Now only the decorative terra-cotta walls of the building remain and a skyscraper rises out of it. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)

If It Ain't Broke...

The Civilian Police Review Board has been eclipsed by an “independent?”

COMMENTARY BY DONNA SWARR

How do we ensure that George Floyd's death is not just another moment of tolerated racial hatred against blacks, but is instead a movement towards fairness, justice, and equity? The city council has decided to improve its review process of the Hartford Police Department. They've proposed creation of a new Hartford Police Accountability Review Board (PARB) being touted as "independent". This board would consider reforms regarding policing practices, such as those discussed in President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Is this an improvement?

The existing board's mission is to hear public complaints against members of the HPD, and to provide an independent review of those complaints; the members are all civilians. They have authority to investigate allegations – of police misconduct, and review reports and conclusions of HPD's Internal Affairs Division. Its membership includes nine regular voting members, eight of whom are appointed by the mayor. No more than two may be non-residents of the city. The Commission on Human Relations appoints one member who must be a resident. Two alternate voting members, also residents, are appointed by the mayor. Members and alternates are selected based on their experience and expertise in fields relevant to the charge of this Civilian Police Review Board. It also reflects the city's neighborhoods and communities, businesses, labor and legal communities, ethnic, gender, racial, and sexual orientation composition. The Chief of Police designates one non-voting officer who advises the board about police policies and procedures. The mayor designates the chairperson. Any member of the board appointed by the mayor may be removed for cause by the mayor. No member of the board can be an HPD officer or a city employee, or an immediate family member of an HPD officer or city employee, as governed and defined by the city's Code of Ethics.

How does this compare to the proposed new police review board? Its purpose has been expanded beyond review of complaints, to formal recommendations to the Chief of Police on policies and issues such as Cadet

recruitment, hiring practices, staffing for managerial and command positions, training practices such as de-escalation techniques, appropriate use of weapons, and community outreach. Some of these appear to be an improvement. The number of members of the commission has been expanded to 11, comprised of members of civil rights organizations, legal professionals, and city personnel; all must be city residents. That's very similar to the existing CPRB with the exception of city staff, and this is not a best practice. Another change is who can appoint members, and both the mayor and the city council will now have this power. It appeared that those appointed by the mayor and city council was at least equal in most of the selected board examples. In the *Hartford Courant*, Councilman T.J. Clarke was quoted as saying that he would "...change the language to include Bronin and a representative from the police department on Monday". This did not happen. None of the best in class police review board examples included the mayor or the police. The inclusion of city staff, the mayor, and those who work for HPD as voting members on the board would be a serious setback regarding the independence of the board. It may actually be in violation of the city's Code of Ethics policy.

The biggest issue is that resident complaints will not receive the attention they deserve. The review of complaints provides transparency as to how problems in the department are handled and shines a light on trends regarding officers, as well as areas of improvement in terms of training and the need for policy changes.

I believe that the Civilian Police Review Board could be improved by the change in who can appoint members. Expanding the areas could be useful, but the recommendations made in President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing could be reviewed by a task force with the participation of the Civilian Police Review Board to expedite the recommendations. The existing board's membership criteria and process is sound, and has been effective in the past. I think that modifying the existing board with the recommended changes is the best solution.

Police Review Board Background

Unfortunately, there have been many serious complaints about the oversight of our city's police department in the recent past; complaints of sexual orientation harassment, racial profiling of traffic stops, complaints regarding police staff who have made racist comments while serving our black community, as well as the problems with the existing Civilian Police Review Board. The Civilian Police Review Board was created in 1992 and amended in 2006. The commissioners who had served for many years had not asked about reapplying and found themselves removed by the mayor without cause. When they approached the city council for support they did not receive it, and all but one was removed while they were investigating a serious case. There were 51 complaints which had not been shared with them. The city's staff support person had been transferred to the Corporation Counsel's office when the Human Relations Department was closed down. Members of the commission said they felt that having their staff support person working in the Corporation Counsel's office was a conflict of interest. The reason that they were not provided with those 51 cases was explained thusly: the complainant was either considering suing or was in fact suing the city. The police chief had stopped providing the follow-up to complaints, e.g. if training was provided. Last year, the board did not provide its annual report of the supported complaints to the mayor or the city council, nor did HPD provide their report regarding its response. The members in the past did reflect the community and had members with the expertise to provide insight into the review process. Ramon Espinoza, a former member, said "I don't think it's good to add the mayor and police chief to board. It would be a horrible idea in terms of transparency and accountability, especially if they are voting members. It would hinder the independence of the board."



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

The Car Insurance Problem, Again

Way back in 1977 when the *Hartford News* (then known as the *Southside Neighborhood News*) was founded, one of the first big issues the paper tackled was the higher car insurance rates for Hartford residents as opposed to their suburban counterparts.

It was such a hot topic back then that State Insurance Commissioner Joseph Mike stated that basing rates on the 18 different territories (including the state's three largest cities, Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport) the state had been divided into was unfairly discriminatory. But the laws weren't changed and city residents continue to pay higher rates to this day.

In an editorial he wrote for the *Hartford Courant* in 1998, attorney John Gale recommended a simple solution: eliminate the 18 territories and base the rates on Connecticut's eight counties. That way a Hartford resident would pay the same as someone living in Wethersfield or Bloomfield or West Hartford.

It's a plan that should certainly be revisited today. Hartford continues to be one of the poorest cities in the country.

Many city residents simply cannot

afford the higher rates they are charged simply because they live within city lines. Some figure out a way, others put off buying a car and rely on other forms of transportation. But as many jobs have moved to the suburbs in recent years, a car is often necessary for transportation to and from work.

And so many Hartford drivers have gone without insurance, crossing their fingers that they're not involved in an accident. When it comes time to renew their registration, which requires proof of insurance, they forego that too. As a result there are thousands of uninsured motorists in Hartford driving unregistered cars. Others have registered their cars in towns with lower insurance rates.

All this results in less revenue for the City of Hartford. So the Tax Assessor's office has recently been checking cars around town and found over 3,700 illegal plates (unregistered, stolen or Hartford-based drivers with out of town or out of state plates). So if this sounds like you, get things straight or you might get caught. And state legislators, it's time to end these unfair insurance rates, so get to work!



Testing will be one of the keys to Hartford's recovery from the current Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) pandemic. While anyone exhibiting symptoms of the virus (dry cough, fever) should be tested, it is recommended that all city residents who regularly come into close proximity with large numbers of people also be tested. This would include those living in large and medium size apartment buildings and those who use mass transit.

To facilitate the testing of as many city residents as possible, there are now 10 testing sites in Hartford. No insurance is required, nor is a doctor's order. *In addition, the City of Hartford is providing free transportation to and from confirmed coronavirus testing appointments through Hartford 311. Residents can call 860-757-9311 Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM to schedule a ride.*

Hartford COVID-19 Testing Sites

- CVS Rapid Testing Site, Arroyo Recreation Center in Pope Park. Results in 15-45 minutes, rather than one to six days as is normal for other testing sites. Open Monday through Friday. To make an appointment, call the City of Hartford 311 Info Line or 860-757-9311. The test is free and you do not need insurance or a doctor's prescription.
- Hartford Hospital, 560 Hudson St. Daily, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Drive-thru and

walk-up testing is available. If you have a primary care physician, they will refer you. If you don't have a physician or have other questions, call Hartford HealthCare's clinical call center at 860-972-8100 or toll-free at 833-621-0600.

- St. Francis Hospital, 1000 Asylum Ave. Monday-Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. Drive-thru and walk-up testing is available. No appointment is necessary. Testing for children is available. For information, call 860-714-4000, Ext. 1.

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A Wake-up Call for Police Administrators

COMMENTARY BY KEVIN BROOKMAN

Anyone who’s seen or heard of the George Floyd video should be rightfully appalled. There are most likely many such incidents that don't result in deaths, or are not recorded, that occur many times each day. As long as we hire human beings as police officers, we'll see some bad behavior. We don't hear often hear about the things great officers do every day, but that's the nature of the beast. Sadly, I think any Chief of Police or supervisor worth their salary knows immediately who their problem officers are. The real question is: “What have they done to curtail their problems and address bad behavior before it escalates?” And the problem is that many are unwilling to deal with the consequences of taking them on before the next George Floyd.

Through many conversations with police chiefs and high-level supervisors regarding bad behavior by officers, there seems to be a common theme when dealing with the problem; police unions and bad Labor Board decisions.

Police unions have become more about protecting bad officers and winning their jobs back than in actually looking out for the good officers and protecting them. The "no snitching" mentality is alive and well in just about every police department. Good cops, for whatever reason tend to cover for bad cops. It’s just the nature of the culture, and good officers who do go beyond and report bad behavior usually find themselves outcasts because they reported a bad cop. Last summer, I received several calls from officers about an incident in Hartford’s North End. When I asked to see the body cam footage of the incident, I was told by two high level HPD officers that the officers in question "...left the office and forgot their body cameras" Now isn't that convenient? And what discipline or corrective action was taken to make sure it doesn't happen in the future? The most likely answer is none.

Through many conversations police chiefs and high-level supervisors regarding bad behavior by officers, there seems to be a common theme when dealing with the problem; police unions and bad Labor Board decisions. One chief told me he didn't want to terminate a bad officer – whose racist behavior was well-documented – because he didn't want to face him in the hallway two years on when the Labor Board would order him to hire the officer back. HPD was recently ordered to hire a detective back after he was terminated as the result of his DUI arrest, and his well documented racist tirade, repeatedly using the "N" word during the arrest, all caught on dash cam and body cam in real time. Where is it now acceptable to now assign a documented racist officer? Is he only a racist when he’s drunk? What about the racist HPD Sergeant who recently returned to the streets as a supervisor after he was previously documented referring to African-American men as "Gorillas in the mist"? Did he serve so much time in the bowels of the HPD booking department that he relinquished his racist viewpoints? Did assigning him to the South End ensure he can't exercise his racist behavior? I sure hope so, because that’s the last thing we need right now. Or do we just wait until the next time he has a bad day and it boils over into a racist rant? There’s too much riding on the public's trust of HPD to allow or even risk, continued bad behavior.

We also need to do a lot more regarding mental health support for officers who see things every day that no human being should have to see or deal with. It’s no wonder some officers eventually "snap", or worse. Supervisors need to be much more in tune with identifying problems and risk factors, and not be afraid or intimidated to address these issues. This can't be the dirty little secret that no police chief wants to address. It’s out in the open now; deal with it and work to fix it. Denial now is futile.

Kevin Brookman writes the blog wethepeoplehartford.blogspot.com



WEPA! Spontaneous Parade in South End

Like just about every other major event in Hartford this summer, the annual Puerto Rican Parade had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. But on Sunday afternoon, June 7, Puerto Ricans from throughout the greater Hartford region converged on Hartford's South End and staged a parade of cars up and down Wethersfield and Franklin Avenue. As in the official parade, the Puerto Rican flag was much in evidence at Sunday's impromptu event. (Hart photos)



Phase 2 of COVID-19 Recovery Starts June 17

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offices were allowed to re-open. On June 1, barber shops and beauty salons got the green light to re-open.

However, all businesses that stayed open during the shutdown and those that have been allowed to re-open since have had to follow strict guidelines in order to prevent a renewal of the spread of the Coronavirus, which has been steadily decreasing in Connecticut.

Businesses that will be allowed to re-open in Phase 2 will have to follow similar guidelines.

For instance, restaurants must limit the number of diners to half their normal capacity. Tables must be spaced six feet apart (or separated by wood or pexiglass barriers). Tables must be cleaned and disinfected between seatings. Waiters and waitresses must wear face masks. Restaurants that can offer no-touch menus (such as white-

boards or phone apps) are asked to do so. If traditional menus are used, they must be sanitized after each use. Buffet, bar and self-service areas must remain closed. Hand sanitizer must be available at the restaurant’s entrance.

Gyms must follow similar guidelines, such as marking every third locker as “do not use” to encourage patrons to maintain a distance of six feet from others.Theaters, bowling alleys and other similar businesses will also be required to set up their facilities so that customers can maintain the recommended six foot distance from one another.

When Phase 2 goes into effect next Wednesday, almost all businesses in the state will be open. But the COVID-19 shutdown has had a devastating effect on businesses and organizations that depend on large public events drawing thousands of people, which are still not allowed.

This year’s Greater Hartford

Festival of Jazz will be online, not in Bushnell Park. Riverfront Recapture has cancelled most events and classes, including the highly popular Taste of the Caribbean and Jerk Festival. Even when such events do return, the question remains whether people will feel safe attending them.

Food Distribution at Rentschler Field Extended

To help those struggling to feed their families due to the economic dislocation caused by the Coronavirus outbreak, Foodshare is extending it drive-thru distribution of free food at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford, through Tuesday, June 30. Hours are 8:30 am - 12 noon, Monday through Friday. Each vehicle will be limited to one allocation of food.

COVID-19 Testing Sites in Hartford

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- CVS Pharmacy, 479 Blue Hills Ave.: Drive-thru only. Register online at cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing.
- CVS Pharmacy,150 Washington St.: Drive-thru only. Register online at www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing.
- CVS Pharmacy,690 Wethersfield Ave.: Drive-thru

only. Register online at www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing.

- Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand St. Daily, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-in only. Make an appointment by calling 860-550-7500.
- InterCommunity Inc., 16 Coventry St. Testing Monday-Friday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-up and drive-thru available. No appointment required. For information,

call 860-569-5900.

- Wheeler Clinic Health and Wellness Center, 43-49 Woodland St. Testing begins May 25. For information, call 860-793-3500.
- Community Health Services, 500 Albany Ave. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 p.m. Appointment required. Current CHS patients only. Call 860-249-9625 to schedule an appointment.

Hartford Knights Day of Caring TODAY at Milner School

The Hartford Knights Youth Organization (HKYO) will host a Day of Caring at Thirman Milner Middle School, 150 Tower Avenue, Hartford, on Thursday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event in response to COVID-19, will feature a drive-through distribution in the parking lot of the school benefitting some 400 Milner School families. Items being distributed include food, fresh produce, face masks and other essential products, books from Hartford Public Library, promotional items from the Hartford Yard Goats and other fun family items. Sponsors include; the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Hartford Public Schools, LAZ Parking, Amazon, Minority Construction Council, Jordan Porco Foundation, Food Share, the Hartford Public Library, the Connecticut Health Foundation, State of CT, Gilbane, Hartford Yard Goats, Freeman Law Firm and WC McBride Electrical Contractors.

Knox And The Village Collaboarate On Community Gardening Teaching Project



Learning to grow our own food teaches children vital life skills ranging from traditional school subjects to emotional and mental health skills.

A collaboration between KNOX, Inc. and The Village for Families and Children to create a community gardening project for staff and families begins today at the Watkinson Garden, one of 20 community garden locations in Hartford. Youth members of the extended-day treatment program will join staff in growing, tending, and harvesting plants this summer for use in the organization’s nutrition program.

Lesson plans include teaching and exploring how things grow, develop and change over time through weekly reports on growth measurements; additional career and life skills opportunities; utilizing shared activities to enhance communication between peer, staff and families; nurturing and caretaking skills development, and the exploration of new relaxation strategies through gardening.

To assist this effort, KNOX recently prepared extensive garden space for this project in the neighboring location for this Knox/ Village collaboration. Seeds, soil, and small seedling

plants were also donated to give the children a head-start towards a successful growing season.

KNOX will also support the program with additional information and resources as needed throughout the summer. Field Operations Manager Craig Mergins said, “We’re so excited to share the fun, and the importance, of local food with this wonderful group of families and the team at The Village. It will be great to see the kids experience a community garden in the coming months. We’re all looking forward to working with such a great organization in Hartford.”

A Summer of Socially-Distanced Recreation

Before Covid 19, one-third of preschool children in Hartford were already considered obese. For the past three months, every child and adult has been quarantined to their homes. School age children have been sitting in front of a computer for four hours a day. There have been no youth sports programming, no adult leagues, no pickup basketball games, and our gyms have been closed. We need outdoor recreational programming for our residents.

Brian Gallagher, Active City and the Park and Recreation Advisory Chair, said “Yes, it will be hard. Yes, it will be different. But we must try.” Since March, Hartford’s recreation staff and facilities have been reallocated to expand coverage for staffing of health department jobs and services. They provided a wide range of virtual programming via a variety of platforms; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and MyRec.com.

But with summer here we need them to ramp up. “Camps are not only for children to be entertained and kept physically active, but also serve as daycare. They are needed now more than ever. Parents have to choose between going to work and leaving their children home alone or not going to work”, says Gallagher. Since camps can’t be as large as in the past, COVID-19 requirements limit groups to no more than 10,



and a camp is limited to 25 participants.

The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission is recommending holding lots of small camps, and provide camps in all of local parks to ensure that a camp is available to every child within walking distance, as busing is problematic and almost 30% of our residents do not own a car. At big parks like Colt, Goodwin, and Keney, there could be three or four. Another suggestion would be to hold morning groups and afternoon groups. The restrictions for outdoor activities are far fewer than those held inside a building. We need to think differently.

What are some of the challenges? We need more staff; there needs to be a way for participants to wash their hands frequently; going to open. We recommend partnering with organizations who serve youth and coordinate camp counseling positions to expand the

Continued on page 6

Coronavirus Testing at InterCommunity



Do you want to know if you or a member of your family have coronavirus?

Adults and children can now be tested at **InterCommunity Health Care.**

Monday through Friday
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
16 Coventry Street, Hartford

- Walk up testing at 16 Coventry Street
- No doctor’s order or appointment needed
- Testing for adults and children
- Test is a self-administered nasal swab
- Bring identification and insurance card
- InterCommunity will call you with the results of your test
- Insurance and uninsured accepted

Help us stop the spread of coronavirus. Get tested today.

Please wear a face mask, scarf or bandanna and observe social distancing of 6 feet while waiting to be tested.



InterCommunity Health Care
Health Care for the Whole Person

16 Coventry Street, Hartford
www.intercommunityct.org
Nosotros hablamos español.

❤️ **#WeWontStopCaring**



Nursing Supervisor at The Retreat Honored for Battling COVID-19 in NYC

On Thursday, June 4, the Community Renewal Team’s (CRT) President and the City of Hartford hosted a “Heroes’ Welcome” to celebrate the successful return of U.S. Army Major Milca Rosario, following a two-month deployment that began in mid-March to New York City, where she was assigned to the Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force 804-1. The event was held at

tion plans went into effect on March 10, 2020 – keeping all 100 residents at The Retreat safe and COVID-19 free.”
The Retreat is the first urban-built affordable assisted living facility in all of Connecticut. It is the home to 100 seniors of diverse backgrounds who live together in a close-knit community.
Under the leadership of CRT’s Vice President of Clinical Support



U.S. Army Major Milca Rosario was welcomed back to The Retreat in Hartford last Thursday, June 4, following her deployment to New York City to help battle the COVID-19 Pandemic. Rosario serves as nursing supervisor at The Retreat, an assisted living facility operated by CRT on Jefferson Street in Hartford’s South Green neighborhood. (Hart photo)

The Retreat, CRT’s assisted living facility on Retreat Avenue, where Rosario works as supervisor of nursing. After completing her service in New York and a two-week quarantine at home, Rosario was back on the job.
Rosario was on the front lines of the Coronavirus pandemic, responsible for a team of doctors and nurses, as well as for the operations of the staff caring for COVID-19 positive patients at the Javits Center makeshift hospital during her deployment in support of the Department of Defense COVID-19 response.
“Last month The Retreat celebrated its 15th anniversary here in Hartford,” said CRT’s President and CEO Lena Rodriguez. “Today, we’re honored to recognize both the successful return of Major Milca Rosario to her role serving the needs of the seniors living at The Retreat; as well as the incredible feat that has been accomplished over the past 85 days – since mitiga-

Services, Heidi Lubetkin and her dedicated team, The Retreat has been able to stay COVID-19 free; and now with the return of Milca Rosario to her nursing responsibilities with Utopia Assisted Living at The Retreat, it is hoped that the services provided to all of the seniors living at the facility will continue to keep everyone well for a long time to come.
In the U.S. Army, Rosario trained for years to be a part of a task force that builds and operates makeshift hospitals during combat. She is a Registered Nurse and has a Masters’ Degree in Community Health. In her role at The Retreat, Rosario oversees all of the clinical operations in the building and the clinical staff, LPN’s and CNA’s. She has been with The Retreat since April 2019, when Utopia Assisted Living was brought on to serve the needs of residents at the facility – she has worked for Utopia since 2013.



Craig Yennie Remembered

On Friday, June 5, long-time South End resident Hyacinth Yennie (sixth from left) planted a tree at Columbus Park on Franklin Avenue in remembrance of her son Craig Yennie, who passed away unexpectedly in November 2016 at the age of 33. A product of Hartford public schools, Craig was a star student who obtained his bachelor’s degree from Trinity College and his PhD from Brown University. He was a chemistry professor at Brown at the time of his death. Among those on hand for the ceremony were Janice Rossetti, Mellissa Noluthando Craig, Charmaine Craig, Jack Hale, Hartford City Forester Heather Dionne, Hartford Director of Recreation Troy Stewart and Craig’s sisters, Melissa Yennie-St. Just and Dr. Charlecynth Yennie Roberts with their children Lucas, Chaya, J.P. and Aiden. (Hart photo)

There’ll be one child born.....and a world to carry on

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Imagine, if you will, choosing to have a baby at this time and bringing it into the world—into our Benighted States of America—where a perfect storm of social and physical ills has made navigating everyday life into something resembling wartime. Uncertainty reigns every day as we’ve learned to await, to even expect, the latest disastrous and depressing news, because we know it’s out there, and it’s coming. Wouldn’t it be better to postpone that decision until our country is in a more stable, a more “nor-



mal” place? But really, babies just come whenever, generally nine months after conception, and none of us have a crystal ball where we can see into the future and say “Uh-oh. Looks like there might be a worldwide pandemic on the horizon, honey. And I’m getting a sense that racial tensions and violence between cops and black Americans is going to heat up and then explode around the same time. Why don’t we just get a

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Edward G. Russo
(20-00455)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 4, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Leonard Comeau
c/o Lara Joy Schneider-Bomzer
Czepigadalpo and Perri, LLC
15 Massiro Drive
Berlin, CT 06037

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
Arline Maras
AKA Arline P. Maras
AKA Aline Priscilla Maras
(20-00287)**

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Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Joanne Maras
c/o Irene P. Romanelli
Romanelli Law Offices
255 Main Street, Suite 303
Hartford, CT 06106

CRT Encourages You to Complete the 2020 Census!

Are you interested in how the government spends money on schools, health care, emergency response services, and road maintenance here in Hartford? Ensuring accurate and complete Census data is key to implementing the programs & services that we all need!

You can make a difference by completing your Census today!
It only takes a couple of minutes, but it will do a lifetime of good! Go Online and Do Your Census today!

<https://2020census.gov/>
#EveryoneCounts

Community Renewal Team
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One Child Born

Continued from page 5

dog?”

My younger son and his fiancée were very happy last fall when her pregnancy was confirmed. They had no reason to believe that anything would be out of the ordinary come July when the baby—a boy, my grandson—was due to arrive. But along the way, Coronavirus restrictions meant that my son wasn’t allowed to be present at the monthly prenatal visits and the ultrasounds; he couldn’t even enter the medical building. There were no birth classes for prospective parents and the possibility that he wouldn’t be allowed at the birth. The expectant mother’s

baby shower was cancelled, due to social distancing cautions. All of these things were disappointing, but not devastating. I’ll probably have to put off visiting until he’s a little older, and that’s okay; safety first. But my son and I have been having lengthy regular phone conversations about the state of the union, and the racial injustice that continues to mount, in no small part because of the Idiot-in-Chief, his sycophantic base, and the Republicans at the Capitol who need to grow a pair. Those conversations are pretty amazing to me, because up until a few years ago when he was in his late 20s, he didn’t show much interest in politics, which was somewhat disappointing. Now he stays incredibly

well-informed and is eager to talk about what he’s learned, what he knows, and what he thinks. I suspect the advent of fatherhood has played a role in his heightened awareness and interest, and particularly his outrage at the state of black America and the very real threat of more violence by white supremacists. As his mother, I say this is a good thing, and I anticipate him taking it to the next level—to activism.

Because that baby boy arriving in a few weeks deserves to have parents who will raise him to be a citizen of the world, one who understands that he is no better a human being than anyone else just because he’s white. He deserves to be told the whole truth about the inequities in society rooted in race, gender, and other factors. He must be made to understand that there are times when he’ll be compelled to take action in order to alleviate danger and suffering among his fellow human beings. And he should be encouraged to use his voice and the power of words to be a peacemaker and a change maker. I want him to be part of the next generation taking the reins and leading the way into a more just world.

Until then, I’ll be happy if he just learns how to say “Grammy”.

Summer Recreation

Continued from page 4

staffing needed, e.g. Compass Peacekeepers, Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA. It would require the City to seek youth workforce development grants for camp counselors and pair them with adults for supervision. We have lots of space in our parks, and would most likely need more picnic tables and plastic tablecloths that can be wiped down. Cleaning products would need to be provided to each mini-camp, programming provided would need to have the materials brought to each park, and port-a-potties & bathrooms would need to be cleaned frequently. Designating an area where and how to isolate a camper or counselor could be done at each mini-camp. A shelter could be located in case of violent weather. There have been youth sport camps offered by many organizations in the past. The biggest obstacle is that we know that team sports, games, and scrimmages are still aren’t allowed as the players touch each other, but they can practice individual skills. The City would need to set up the permitting process to open up the fields with strict COVID-19 safety guidelines to support these programs. We also need to restart

adult outside programs and expand them. Programming suggestions include yoga, salsa, Zumba, and painting classes. If it rains we can use Zoom. PRAC would like to see coordination between youth and adult programming. So many parents have limited recreational options that offering adult movement classes and sedentary recreational programming near the youth programming, such as dance classes for cohabitating adults, painting classes, and coloring would be beneficial. We envision a Park Night in each of the larger parks where these activities would be available.

Yes, it will be harder than in the past to offer recreational programming, but we need to try.

Colt Park Walkway Closed

Over the next 10 days the east to west walkways through Colt Park will be closed, due to construction. You will need to use Wawarme Ave and Stonington Street. You can still walk in the park on the west side of the park along Wethersfield Ave and Morris Street Extension and the east side of the park near Hendixsen and Masseek.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Miroslaw Puchalski (20-00463)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 5, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Mariusz Grybowski
c/o Monika Anna Gradzki
The Gradzki Law Firm, LLC
17 Lenox Place
New Britain, CT 06052

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Doris T. Shaw (20-00309)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 1, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
John Q. Gale,
John Q. Gall, LLC
363 Main Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

Hartford Promise Hosts a Virtual ‘Night of Promise to Celebrate Its First Class of College Graduates

Hartford Promise, a non-profit scholarship organization, will honor its first class of college graduates on June 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with a virtual commencement cere-

mony featuring CT and Hartford dignitaries, musicians, student speakers, and keynote remarks by Connecticut Congresswoman and 2016 state Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes; and Henry Louis “Skip” Gates, Jr., a noted teacher, historian, filmmaker, and professor at Hutchins Center for African-American Studies at Harvard University.

The live on-line ‘Night of Promise’ event will provide family, friends, donors, and the public an

opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the 2020 Class of Promise Scholars, many of whom are first generation college graduates and have missed out on the opportunity to have a traditional commencement. Ensuring that these new graduates feel celebrated, honored, and recognized for what they have accomplished is of the upmost importance to Richard Sugarman, President of Hartford Promise.

Mayor Luke Bronin, who has been a strong supporter of Hartford Promise, will be among the other featured speakers and has declared June 11 Hartford Promise Scholar Day. Iconic city structures will be lit with green in honor of the Scholars from June 11th thru June 14th, and include Travelers Tower, The Stark Building at 750 Main, The Stilts Building, The Riverfront Canopy at Mortensen Plaza, Aetna, The Hartford, UConn Hartford, and Dunkin Donuts Park. Mayor Bronin encourages all Hartford businesses and residents to do the same and “Go Green for Promise!”

These Promise Scholars are attending 70 different colleges across the country. Using its Integrated College Success Model, Hartford Promise scholars are persisting in college at a rate of 87% and the graduation rate for 4-year institutions is over 66%. The average college graduation rate for the Hartford District is 46%.

Since its inception in 2016, Hartford Promise has awarded over \$5,000,000 in scholarships to over 500 Hartford public high school students.

Go to hartforpromise.org for up to date event and Season of Promise details along with student spotlights

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I,

ROBERT CARRASCO
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Have filed and application placarded 06/11/2020 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 860 MAIN ST EAST HARTOFRD, CT 06108-3118

The business will be owned by: MAIN 860, LLC

Entertainment will consist of Acoustics (not amplified), Concerts, Disc Jockeys, Live Bans, Comedians

Objectons must be filed by: 07-23-2020

ROBERT CARRASCO

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Gloria Hamilton (20-00400)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated June 5, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Pauline Hamilton
459 Cornwall Street
Hartford, CT 06112



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Teachers’ Union Election

Continued from page 1

vate all students and the city of Hartford.” Gale continued, “We seek equity in the district and heeding the call for justice to our community through HFT.” The officers have already reached out to their parent organization, the American Federation of Teachers, and have plans to meet with all stakeholders. Does this include Hartford’s Superintendent of Schools Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez? “We hope to sit down with her, our membership, and the staff at Central Office.” She adds that “Teachers deserve a union that is

democratic, listens to its members, and works to make schools better for every student. We appreciate the overwhelming support we received during this election, and we will continue to listen to members as we work to rebuild and strengthen our union. We are committed to advocating for all our members: teachers, SPOs, health workers, substitutes, and CDAs. We are also committed to continuing to raise all our voices so that our valuable input may help improve education in Hartford.”

In these troubling times, Hartford Public Schools employees face

obstacles that are beyond the usual scope of their work in education. As Carol Gale explains it, “We take the reins of the HFT during challenging times. COVID-19 closed schools and leaves many uncertainties regarding reopening schools in the fall. Recent protests after the death of George Floyd, which call for justice and an end to police brutality, resonate loudly throughout the Hartford school system. Many on our team participated in a Hartford teacher rally and protest march last week. Hartford teachers and their supporters marched so that our students won’t have to in their future.

There is much work that needs to be done, and towards that aim, we are committed to fighting for equity in our schools and the dismantling of the systemic racism that pervades our communities.”

In addition to Gale the newly-elected leadership of the Hartford Federation of Teachers is: Corey Moses, first vice president; Stuart Beckford, second vice president; Melissa Yennie, third vice president; Tiffany Moyer-Washington, secretary; Daniel Duesing, treasurer; Ashley Bonet, area coordinator, Bulkeley High School; Richard de Meij, area coordinator, Hartford

Public High School; Jessie Rosario, area coordinator, Weaver High School; Debra St. Germain, vice president, non-teaching personnel; Susan Miano, vice president, special projects.

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Hartford, For Rent

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Un saludo muy especial a todos los Padres en su día, para aquellos que disfrutan el tiempo libre con su familia y su más grande alegría es verlos felices, los felicito y les deseo de todo corazón un feliz día del Padre de parte de Hartford newspapers y La Diferente Radio.

Las Personas Expresan Sus Objeciones Al Racismo Y La Brutalidad Policial En Conn



La gente se levantó para expresar sus objeciones al racismo y la brutalidad policial a través de otra ola de protestas en todo el estado el sábado.

Las protestas han sido provocadas por la reciente muerte de George Floyd, asesinado por el ex oficial de policía de Minnesota Derek Chauvin, quien ahora enfrenta cargos de asesinato. Los manifestantes están indignados por el asesinato de Floyd y otros que consideran motivados racialmente.

Marchando por Hartford Sabado, los manifestantes continuaron el movimiento en busca de una reforma policial. Los organizadores presentaron una lista de demandas, incluida la desmilitarización y la

reducción de fondos para las fuerzas policiales; junto con el establecimiento de una junta de revisión de la policía civil para supervisar la mala conducta de la policía. una protesta de Hartford fue organizada por Black Woman Attorneys de Connecticut. Celebraron una sentada silenciosa en los escalones de la corte suprema del estado, pidiendo una evaluación exhaustiva de las leyes actuales.

"Definitivamente debe haber una revisión de las políticas y la legislación para ver cómo tiene un impacto en el racismo sistémico e institucionalizado", dijo Nichelle Mullins, Presidenta y CEO del Centro de Salud Charter Oak.

En Manchester, los manifes-

tantes caminaron del ayuntamiento al departamento de policía. Los oradores abordaron el racismo institucional y la brutalidad policial. Al evento asistieron personas de muchos orígenes y razas.

"Estoy más emocionado por el hecho de que hay mucha gente blanca aquí. Porque ellos son los que ahora tienen que hacer el trabajo. No podemos hacerlo solos. Necesitan caminar en solidaridad con nosotros", dijo Diane Clare-Kearney, de Manchester.

Más tarde el sábado por la tarde, Meriden's Green se llenó de una multitud masiva. La mayoría de las personas vestían ropa negra que enfatizaba el mensaje "Black Lives Matter".

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